

# KANSAS AGITATOR

Special Privileges to None.

Equal Rights to All.

Death to Trusts.

No More Bonds Forever.

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**KANSAS AGITATOR**

Devoted to the interests of  
**THE MASSES.**

A Fearless, Aggressive, Progressive Advocate of  
All Reforms.

W. O. CHAMPE AND ANNA CHAMPE, Editors.

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W. H. ANDERSON, }

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## PUBLIC MEN AND PROMISES.

Mr. Cleveland can say good things as easily as did his predecessor, Mr. Harrison, but when it comes to acting like Mr. Harrison, he is on the other side.

A few years ago, Mr. Harrison had the worst possible opinion of combines and trusts, but he signed the Sherman anti-trust bill, which, so far, has only caught labor organizations that are struggling for the life of its members, their wives and little ones, and afterward, Mr. Harrison immediately subsided.

A short time before Mr. Cleveland's late nomination, he wrote a public letter, in which the farmer and working man were objects of his most tender solicitude; but, the first opportunity, the groans of starving laborers were hushed in the rattle of Winchester's under Cleveland's direction; and now, to further deceive the people, he, in his letter, says, in substance, that the machinations of trusts and combinations should not be forgotten.

Going back further, the Republicans promised free silver and tariff reduction, but steadily worked up to monometallicism and the McKinley bill. Promises have been broken, and, therefore, we reason that they were made to deceive, and, in the light of the past, if any Republican believes that party will restore silver, he is to be pitied for his partisan imbecility.

If any Democrat believes that his party will reform the tariff to any considerable extent, let him reflect for a moment, and he will perceive that Democracy has had its first and last opportunity, and utterly failed of a tithe of its promises.

Young and fresh blood in our national assemblies is our only hope, and that blood must be furnished by new men and new parties.

We were glad to see, in last week's Republican-Plaineader, such hopeful evidence that Bro. Brooke is willing to lay aside his prejudices and give his readers some facts of political history. He published Gov. Lewelling's famous tramp circular, with an appropriate introduction, and also reviewed some facts relative to the stealing of the presidency from Tilden, in 1876, with bitterly-condemnatory remarks. He gives a little more history, relative to fraud in Kansas, wherein the Republicans stole every state office except the attorney-general's. For this piece of fraud the Plaineader roasts the Republicans unmercifully. Yes; we are glad to see these evidences of a change of heart in Bro. Brooke. The fact is, he has been a Populist at heart for some time, but hasn't plucked up courage yet to say so. However, after a little while, when he sees the undeniable evidence that the Populists are on top, he'll rush to the fore, flap his little wings and shout: "Jes see what we done!" But, that's all right; we don't care; we're magnanimous, you know.

Both Elder and Semple were turned down in Franklin county, William E. Kibbe being factually elected. The preliminary fight had been a hot one, and finally Elder withdrew on condition that Semple would be laid out. —Parsons Independent.

Yes, but, Kibbe was Elder's man. You see, he was.

## KANSAS.

Hurrah! for our beautiful Kansas.  
Hurrah! for her girls and her boys,  
Hurrah! for her picnics and dances,  
Hurrah! for her sunshine and joys.

Her bounteous sunshine and showers  
Bring harvests of grasses and grain,  
And many's the sweet happy hours  
I've roamed o'er her flowery plain.

As pure as a crystal her waters:  
Her sunshine like showers of gold:  
The grace of her beautiful daughters  
Doth vie with the Goddess of old.

Oh! Kansas—my beautiful Kansas!  
Where the sun shines bright in the sky,  
And the breezes that lovingly fan us  
Are born of the zephyrs on high.

I drink in his sunshine as nectar,  
And I bathe in the golden sheen,  
While nature in beauty bedecks her  
In mantles of yellow and green.

Her prairies are like the vast ocean  
With her billows, that rise and fall,  
And when choosing of earth any portion,  
She's my first, my last, and my all.

—C. S. Wmrs, in Kansas Commoner.

## THE CAPITAL AND REV. J. D. BOTKIN.

Any utterance or effort on the part of any person looking to a change of present industrial conditions excites the ire of the Topeka Capital as does the sight of a red flag the ire of a mad bull.

The Rev. J. D. Botkin is the subject of the Capital's latest raving in a long article headed, "Agin the Government." Mr. Botkin is a recent acquisition to the People's party, and he has given to the world his reasons for becoming a Populist. Being an able and earnest Christian minister, of irreproachable character, the Capital is constrained to refrain from the usual mud-slinging, so the article is confined to a misleading statement of Mr. Botkin's position.

The Capital says: "Rev. J. D. Botkin, the recent Populist convert, gives some very bad reasons for being a Populist, all of which may be summed up by the expressive headline to this article."

The public has pretty generally read Mr. Botkin's letter, and it is needless to say that he is not only loyal to our republic, but loyal to Christ; so the Capital's statement is an untruth.

Mr. Botkin, as are all Populists, is against the present administration of our government, but not against the form or principles, and when he advocates the ownership of railroads, or holding of farm lands for the benefit of all, he simply advocates the enlargement of a principle as old as the constitution, and possibly as old as man. We have a common ownership in our free schools and in our postal system, both of which, although run on different lines, are the most eminently successful and free from abuse of any of the American institutions.

What Mr. Botkin aims at (as do all Populists) is the substitution of co-operation of the whole mass of people for competition of the individual or company of capitalists. In the competitive system, a few men are enabled, through cunning and the power that capital imparts, to absorb the greater share of wealth produced by the honest and industrious laborers.

We are now beginning to reap the fruit of competition, which is causing a revolution in the ranks of the intelligent, humane and Christian.

Jay Gould tactics damn our railroad system. The steady growth of tenants damns our landed system, as in the case of Carnegie and Pullman damn.

As a Christian, Mr. Botkin could not sanction a system, or systems, so utterly at variance with the teachings of Christ, and, so, seeks a change not at variance with human rights or Christian brotherhood.

In the same article, the Capital raves about socialism, saying: "Socialism is the denial by force of the right to own private property."

The Capital is never right, and never will be until it receives a new set of brains. It utterly fails to present socialism in so far as it is held or taught by Populists. Populism is the denial by force of the few to starve the many. On this platform Mr. Botkin (as do all Populists) squarely plants his feet, and will stand there until this end is fully accomplished.

God did not make the earth for a few men, and our fathers did not ordain a constitution alone for the Goulds and Pullmans.

The writer visited the boys' reform school at Topeka, Tuesday, and found everything in the best condition possible. Supt. Hitchcock and wife are careful, painstaking people, and they enjoy the respect of all with whom they come in contact. They rule the boys with love, and not through fear, and the boys seem happy and contented. The boys are comfortably clad, and are fed an abundance of good, healthful, nourishing food. We have at various times visited other state charitable institutions, and we have always found them conducted in a manner that, it seems to us, could not be improved. The opposition papers have had a great deal to say about "fusses" and "scraps" in the state institutions, but, whatever of truth there may have been in these reports (which are always magnified many times), it cannot be said that the inmates of those institutions suffer from lack of proper attention and nourishment. In making inquiries of various persons as to whom is due the credit for many improvements that have been made, we are invariably told that they are due to the presence of a woman on the state board of charities. All agree that Mrs. Lense's influence is wonderfully helpful, and a member of the board said to us: "She is invaluable as a member of the board." The attaches of the institutions are devoted to the "mother member," and at the reform school, when the boys filed into the dining-room, their faces brightened at sight of her, for they recognized a true friend. When free to do so, they crowd around her, eager to grasp her hand, for they know, from intuition, that her heart goes out in sympathy to unfortunate and downtrodden humanity. Would to God that the mother influence could be felt in the charitable institutions of all the states in the Union. Kansas is truly blessed above her sisters in this respect.

The Arena for September contains a long review of the Chicago Strike of '94. The author dismisses the matter of riots and violence as being merely a matter for the municipal and state authorities to have dealt with under the provisions of the statutory criminal law, and not a question affecting the principles involved in the conflict between organized labor and organized capital. He then addresses himself to a critical analysis of the rights of both parties in the conflict. These he denies according to the greatest legal authorities, Blackstone, Coke and others, and the common law and constitution of the United States, and by the same analysis he defines the nature and functions of the State and Federal Governments. Then the author declares the proper equilibrium of rights under the law, and shows the peril of such a confusion and perversion of them as was manifested during the labor troubles in Chicago.

## SOUVENIRS FREE

ON SATURDAY, SEPT. 15.

—THE—

## BOSTON STORE

FROM KANSAS CITY

Has purchased the

## TEMPLE OF ECONOMY,

And has added a large line of Fresh Goods, such as

DRY GOODS, DRESS GOODS, MEN'S and BOYS' CLOTHING and FURNISHINGS, and a fine line BOOTS and SHOES—all of which will be sold at Prices never before heard of in this territory.

GRAND OPENING,

## SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15.

Call and get acquainted and get a Souvenir.

## WHO IS INCOMPETENT?

Populist congressmen have been roundly abused for what is called their incompetency; but it will be remembered that both old parties are unfriendly to Populism, and so combine to defeat any Populist measure, no matter how meritorious, and the charge of "incompetency" falls flat, because no party can fairly be considered incompetent if opportunity has been denied. Now, while we are speaking of incompetency, could any party be more incompetent than either of the old parties, especially when it is considered that, according to Czar Reed, congress has just passed a tariff bill that neither party wants? The truth of the whole matter is, what one party is for, the other party is "fernest." The one is opposed to the other for the sake of office. The good of the people cuts no figure in congress, and about the only thing congress is capable of doing (we include both parties) is to build up trusts and corporations, accept boodle and draw their salaries.

Talk about incompetency! Why, if Hell was run with no more wisdom or business foresight than is our congress, the supply of brimstone would not last a fortnight. Satan keeps no wasteful engineers. It belongs to the sovereign people of America to employ a lot of corporation attorneys, who are either knaves or fools, or both.

No subject that was ever before the American people has been so thoroughly ventilated as the tariff question, and yet, according to old-party authorities, the question is no nearer being settled than it was when the question sprang into existence. Is the "great question" so deep that corporation lawyers cannot solve the problem? If so, let them step down and out, and give as many farmers of common horse-sense a chance, and we will guarantee a speedy and permanent settlement. The tariff wind and deception of so-called American statesmen would make Satan tired and disgust the minions of Hell. For the sake of a long-suffering public, give us a rest, for we are about ready to declare that the man who says "tariff" is a devil.